

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05 IGA-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 /076 W

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R 131211Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5205

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0234

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJECT: IL 10 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR MAALE ADUMIM

REF: TEL AVIV 0211

1. SUMMARY: PRIMIN RABIN AT JAN 12 CABINET MEETING ANNOUNCED ALLOCATION OF IL 10 MILLION IN 1975-76 BUDGET (BEGINNING THIS APRIL) FOR INFRASTRUCTURE WORK AT MAALE ADUMIM. CABINET REJECTED PROPOSAL FOR NEW POLITICAL DEBATE ON PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WAKE OF LAST WEEK'S POLITICAL STORM OVER MAALEH ADUMIM INDUSTRIAL (REFTTEL, CABINET JAN 12 MOVED RAPIDLY TO RESOLVE ALLOCATION ISSUE BY AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF IL 10 MILLION IN NEXT FISCAL YEAR (APRIL 1, 1975-MAR 31, 1976). EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS IS TO BE UNDER CONTROL OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, RATHER THAN ISRAEL LANDS AUTHORITY.

3. ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM POST, PROPOSAL BY MAPAM MINISTERS THAT CABINET DEBATE ISSUE WAS DEFEATED. RABIN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GOI'S DECISION-IN-PRINCIPLE OF NOV 24 TO  
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PROCEED WITH WORK ON MAALE ADUMIM WAS SUFFICIENT, AND HE

SAW NO NEED FOR CABINET TO ENDORSE DECISION AGAIN.

4. PRESS REPORTS MIXED VIEWS BY CABINET MINISTERS ON PRACTICAL EFFECT OF DECISION. ONE MINISTER, DESCRIBED AS "USUALLY DOVISH", TENDED TO DOUBT WHETHER PLANS WOULD IN FACT BE IMPLEMENTED. ADVOCATS OF PROJECT, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ALLOCATON OF IL 10 MILLION, WHICH THEY SEE AS SUFFICIENT FOR BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE WORK.

5. MAPAM YOUTH DIVISION HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL CONVENE PROTEST RALLY IN KIRYAT SHMONA IN OPPOSITION TO DECISION TO DEVELOP MAALE ADUMIM. THE RALLY WILL BE ADDRESSED BY MKS YOSI SARID (LABOR PARTY) AND DOV ZAKIN( MAPAM), WHO ARE IN FOREFRONT OF OPPOSITION TO PROJECT. LOCATION OF RALLY IS EVIDENTLY DESIGNED TO PUBLICIZE SUPPOSED DIVERSION OF FUNDS TO AMALE ADUMIM FROM DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN GALILEE. INFO MINISTER YARIV DECLARED AFTER CABINET MEETING, HOWEVER, THAT NO SUCH DIVERSION WAS INVOLVED.

6. JERUSALE MAYOR KILLEK HAS EXPRESSED HIS RESERVATIONS ABOUT MAALEH ADUMIM PROJECT, BY NOTING THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN INSTEAD TO DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL AREA AT ANATOT, NORTHEAST OF CITY. DEPUTY MAYOR BENVENISTI, INTERVIEWED ON ISRAELI TV, ALSO OBJECTED TO PROJECT, NOTING THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO EVEN GREATER IMBALANCE OF ARAB AND JEWISH POPULATION BY GENERATING FURTHER CONCENTRATION OF ARAB POPULATION IN EASTERN SUBURBS OF JERUSALEM.

7. COMMENT: PROMPT CABINET DECISION, WITH SUPPORT OF PRIMIN, SHOULD DEFUSE MAALEH ADUMIM ISSUE TEMPORARILY AT LEAST IN CONTEXT OF ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS. BUDGET MUST STILL BE PRESENTED TO KNESSET FOR APPROVAL, PROVIDING OPPONENTS OF PROJECT ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO CRITICIZE IT. BUT ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION FROM LEADERSHIP RANKS OF RULING LABOR PARTY SUGGESTS THAT ANY SUCH DEBATE WILL BE LARGELY PRO-FORMA AFFAIR.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATIONS  
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